



NEW
HERITAGE
THEATRE
GROUP

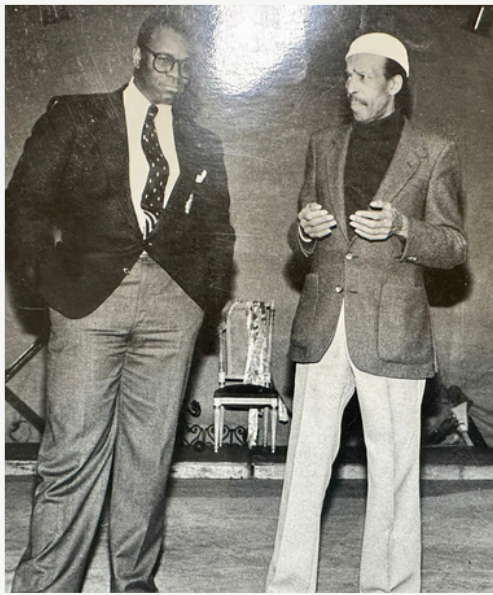
Est. 1964

60
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

VOZA RIVERS
FOUNDING MEMBER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

1964

HISTORY



VOZA RIVERS

ROGER FURMAN

IT WAS 1964 when **Roger Furman** founded the New Heritage Repertory Theatre as a nonprofit, community performance group that he ran for 20 years until his death at age 59. His was a career that broke boundaries in theater, film, television, books, and the perseverance needed to start and support a Harlem based theater company.

Furman had been working with HAR-YOU ACT, an anti-poverty program in Harlem and sought to offer theater in the Black community. What resulted were more than 35 plays, the development of technical and financial support, and, in the end, an institution that has survived and continues.

Furman had studied theater arts at The New School for Social Research, and served apprenticeships at the National Theatre of Puerto Rico and the American Negro Theatre. But the reality, as he said, meant "I do stage design, acting, carpentry, filmmaking, directing and playwriting. A designer of a community-based theater must be versatile."

The theater's most acclaimed works included those he wrote or directed, though he also acted.

Of Furman, A. Peter Bailey wrote that he was, "one of the most brilliant artists of his time, created magic on stage because he was a talented true believer in the importance of serious exciting and entertaining black theater."



Honorary Chairs

Pam Belafonte
Doug-E Fresh
Leleti Khumalo
Pastor Michael Walrond, Jr.
Dionne Warwick

Honorary Co-Chairs

Robin Bell-Stevens
Gina & Reggie Blythewood
Pastor Desiree Elder
Irene Gandy
Woodie King, Jr.
Marcia Sells

Honorary Committee

David Fenton
Vy Higginsen
Cheryl Hill
Amy Sprecher
Lloyd & Valorie Williams

Steering Committee

Baron Carr
Temple-Jene Fleming
Barbara Horowitz
Jordanis Kilfe
Aailytha Stevens
JT Thompson
Donna Walker-Kuhne

Journal created with
Joy!
Catrina

Celebration

Performance **Highlights**

December 16th, 2024

Hosts

PHYLISS YVONNE STICKNEY
ANDRÉ ROBINSON

Musical Performances

Atushi Toya Tokuya
Baba Don's Trio
Clean Money Music
Craig Harris Group
Impact Repertory Theatre

Libations to the Ancestors | Jamal Joseph

Theatrical Presentations

Daniel Koa Beaty | *Emergency*
Debra Ann Byrd | *Becoming Othello*
Michael Green | *39 Steps Toward Freedom*
Luther "Anubis" Isler | *Broken Mirror*

Dance!

Obediah Wright's Balance Dance Theatre
Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Dance Ensemble

Music Tribute

Sipho Kunene & Woza Masekela
In Honor of
Miriam Makeba, Mbongeni Ngema,
Hugh Masekela, Quincy Jones, and
Harry Belafonte

Honorees

NYC Council Member **Gale Brewer**
Assembly Member **Inez Dickens**

Special Announcements

Vincent Boudreau, President
City College of New York
Dee Dee Mozeleski, Senior Vice President
City College of New York

Closing Remarks

Lloyd Williams
Daniel Koa Beaty
Catrina Prioleau
Jamal Joseph
Voza Rivers

HOSTS



PHYLLIS YVONNE STICKNEY is a trailblazing actress, director, producer, author, and community activist celebrated for her versatility in film, stage, and television. Known for iconic roles in *Malcolm X*, *New Jack City*, and *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, she made history on *A Different World* and was named one of *Essence Magazine's* "200 African American Women Who Changed the World." A motivational speaker and cultural ambassador, she has empowered urban youth, developed groundbreaking training programs, and advocated for community transformation. Stickney's 40-year career exemplifies excellence, integrity, and creativity, solidifying her as a pioneer and icon in the entertainment industry.



ANDRÉ ROBINSON is a producer, community-focused real estate developer, facilitator, activist, author, and consultant with subject matter expertise in creative place-making, racial equity, community building, production, and leadership development. He has led numerous social and creative initiatives, most notably *New Heritage Theatre*, *Belafonte Enterprises*, the *Lincoln Theatre*, *Innovation Village: Baltimore*, the *MD Governor's Social Determinants of Health Task Force*, and *Westport Economic Development Corporation*. André is the proud father of *Alana Kjhri*, a writer, based in Los Angeles.



In the vibrant tapestry of Harlem's cultural scene, the New Heritage Theatre Group shines brightly as a paragon of artistic brilliance and dedication. For over sixty years, this esteemed institution has championed the richness of African American heritage, bringing powerful stories and unforgettable performances to life.

The New Heritage Theatre Group has been a nurturing ground for countless artists, providing them with a platform to express their creativity and share their voices. Its commitment to preserving and promoting cultural narratives has not only enriched our community but has also contributed significantly to the broader artistic landscape.

We celebrate the New Heritage Theatre Group for its unwavering dedication to excellence in the arts. Its legacy of fostering talent, celebrating diversity, and inspiring audiences will undoubtedly continue to resonate for generations to come.

Here's to the New Heritage Theatre Group—a beacon of cultural pride, resilience, and artistic innovation. May your light continue to guide and inspire us all!

PERFORMERS



DANIEL KOA BEATY An award-winning actor, singer, and writer, Daniel Koa Beaty's critically acclaimed plays *Through the Night*, *Emergency*, *Mr. Joy*, *Breath & Imagination*, and *The Tallest Tree in the Forest - Paul Robeson*, have been performed at venues ranging from the Public Theater and Lincoln Center to the White House and maximum-security prisons. He has garnered numerous awards including an Obie award for writing and performance, AUDELCO Awards and five NAACP Theater Awards. For television, Beaty has written for network and premium cable including *The Good Fight*, *Your Honor*, *Law & Order*, & *Supergirl*. A graduate of Yale University (BA) & American Conservatory Theatre (MFA), Beaty has developed original scripted television shows with Imagine/Fox, Fox/Showtime, UCP/USA, CBS & WB Studios. In 2010, Beaty began *I Dream*, www.IDream.org, a movement of artists, activists, and entrepreneurs committed to public good. *I Dream's* core strategy is using the tools of the arts to help heal trauma and build coalitions to address urgent social justice issues. Beaty recently completed a documentary about the impact of mass incarceration on children and families called *Behind the Glass*. A child of an incarcerated parent himself, Daniel's poem *Knock Knock* has become an Internet sensation receiving over 30 million views and has been made into a children's book, also titled *Knock Knock*, published by Little Brown Books. Penguin-Random House published his memoir *Transforming Pain to Power*. Beaty second children's book, *Future Ancestor*, releases in '25.

For more information, please visit [insta/tiktok/youtube: @danielkoabeaty](https://www.instagram.com/danielkoabeaty) or www.DanielKoaBeaty.com.



IMPACT REPERTORY THEATRE is an Oscar and Grammy nominated youth art, performance, and leadership training program that promotes the positive development of young people ages 9 to 18 by providing a learning environment that encourages, nurtures and challenges its students. IMPACT offers workshops, leadership programs and performance opportunities. The programs and curriculum encourages Impact members to have the imagination, skills and confidence to create their "special place in the world." A core Impact value is attending college and giving back through active community service. Impact's ongoing performance program, creative labs, and 12 week intensive artist and activist training **programs are tuition free**. IMPACT is rooted in creative self-expression and anchored by a commitment to Safe Space, Outstanding Effort and Service to the Community. (S.O.S.)



PERFORMERS



BABA DON'S TRIO Baba Don Eaton Babatunde is the Founder and CEO of Percussion Arts Projects. As a very much in demand percussionist, he has performed with many Major American Dance Companies. He is a featured member of the esteemed Harlem Based group The Last Poets. His recording and music career is as equally varied as it is vast. In jazz idioms, rhythm and blues, using African derived percussion styles are represented in his discography. He is currently on tour with The Last Poets.



DEBRA ANN BYRD is a celebrated Shakespearean actress and producer. Debra and Voza Rivers are co-founders of the the Harlem Shakespeare Festival. She is an emerging playwright, who recently completed her new solo show BECOMING OTHELLO: A Black Girl's Journey. Her classical roles for the stage include Queen Elizabeth, Volumnia Cleopatra, Lady Bracknell Marc Antony and OTHELLO. Byrd's career as an actor, producer, arts manager and business leader has been recognized with more than 20 awards and citations, including the NAACP Shirley Farmer Woman of Excellence Award, the AUDELCO Outstanding Achievement Award, the LPTW (League Lucille Lortel Award, and the Josephine Abady Award for Excellence in "Producing works that foster diversity."



CRAIG HARRIS GROUP is a trombonist, composer, bandleader, and gifted sonic shaman. An award-winning prolific composer, Craig's recent projects include the stage premiere of Craig Harris' FESTAC '77, plus Harlem Sonic Communniversity, featuring open rehearsals and free public concerts introducing Craig's compositions to new and established audiences. Nominated by NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Soundtrack/Compilation Album, Craig is co-composer of the score for the Oscar-winning film Judas and the Black Messiah. Craig's newest recording, Managing the Mask, was successfully released in 2022.



MICHAEL GREEN Founder, Producer, Director: Shades of Truth Theatre, for the past 20 years, Michael Green has directed and produced shows illuminating the Black experience. He wrote Whistle in Mississippi, The Day Harlem Saved Dr. King, and Barbara Jordan, I Dared to Be. He is best known for presenting plays about Black Wall Street and portraying Dr. King in Jeff Stetson's The Meeting. His latest work is 39 Steps Toward Freedom, coming soon to Woodie King's New Federal Theatre. For 13 years, Michael was the drama instructor for the Artists Collective in Hartford, Connecticut. Has also been a teaching artist for Medgar Evers College's ROLL program since 2004. He was recognized by the Audelco Awards (2009) and SITA Awards (2022).



GXLD FVBRK, pronounced (Gold Fabric) a collective of Clean Money Music, are from the small suburbs of South Jersey. The Trio consists of lead Rapper S.K.Y., female vocalist Zel and Brandon the Melodic Poet. Together they produce infectious melodies, powerful lyrics and captivating visuals to invoke the feeling of nostalgia in present form.



PERFORMERS



LUTHER "ANUBIS" ISLER poetically known as The Artist Anubis, is a spoken word poet, cultural curator, and community cultivator. Anubis founded Harlem Bomb Shelter with Voza Rivers, a literary arts organization presenting open mics, showcases, workshops, and more. Anubis is member of the historic Harlem Writers Guild, and authored "My People Burn and Other Visions," a poetry anthology in 2021. In 2024, he completed a run of his one-man show, "BROKEN MIRROR" which was nominated for 2 AUDELCO Awards.

For more information, please visit insta: [@brokenmirroroms](#) or www.TheArtistAnubis.com.



OYU ORO DANCE ENSEMBLE Danys Perez Prades" La Mora" Founder, Artistic Director, Choreographer (2019 Dance/USA Doris Duke fellow). Originally from Santiago de Cuba, Danys "La Mora" Pérez is a master of Afro-Cuban folkloric dance. Pérez specializes in the styles of the Oriente province, where its cultural richness is the infusion of Afro-Haitian influences into a vibrant Afro-Cuban context. For the past 20 years, La Mora has been a Harlem resident. She has taught Afro-Cuban dance classes in New York City: The Ailey Extension program, Cumbe African & Diaspora Dance & Drum and Djoniba Dance Center. She has served as guest instructor and choreographer for dance programs outside New York City, such as the summer program at Humboldt University. In 2004, La Mora founded Oyu Oro, an Afro-Cuban Experimental Dance Ensemble in New York City, the only Afro-Cuban dance company of its kind in the USA.



SIPHO KUNENE & WOZA MASEKELA is the group led by drummer Sipho Kunene comprised mostly of musicians who have toured and recorded with South African jazz legend and political activist Hugh Masekela. "It is our intent to carry on the legacy and spirit that is Hugh Masekela. He made an indelible imprint on all of our lives. A teacher, mentor, friend and brother, he will always be with us, and with the world."



ATUSHI -TOYA- TOKUYA Composer, arranger, keyboardist, and producer, TOYA, was born in Tokyo, Japan. With a rich career spanning over 100 Albums and numerous concert tours alongside renowned Japanese artists. TOYA relocated to NYC in 1991. His collaborations include musical direction and keyboardist roles with icons like Ben E. King, Dionne Warwick, Maxine Brown, and Chuck Jackson. A long-time collaborator with Ben E. King, TOYA produced King's final album. His versatility extends to film music winning the "Best Music" award in 2023. TOYA also composed three original ballet suites for Saint Louis Ballet and is currently working on his musical, "Gravity Of Love" to be produced by New Heritage Theatre in 2025.



OBEDIAH WRIGHT BALANCE DANCE THEATRE Internationally known Creative Director, Audelco nominated Choreographer, Master Teacher, and storyteller is a Native New Yorker and a proud Julliard Alumus. His Credits include: Assistant Choreographer "Black Nativity", (Fox Searchlight Pictures) The Dream at 50, (PBS) "Hair", Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dream coat, MTV Made, Head Of The Class: The Lion King, (Disney/The Bravo Chanel) "Fame", (MGM) "The Wiz" Founder/Artistic Director Balance Dance Theatre. Other credits include Fashion Week NYC, as well as several music videos and international commercials. Mr. Wright has worked with "A-list" talent such as Angela Bassett, Jennifer Hudson, Forest Whitaker, Mary J Blige, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Dionne Warwick, Debbie Allen, Geoffrey Holder, and Liza Minnelli. Currently, Mr. Wright is choreographing a commercial for the Japanese movie company Nitsu. In 2005, Mr. Wright founded Balance Dance Theatre a 501c3 organization serving the youth of Brooklyn, NY where his roots are from.

PRODUCTION STAFF



JOHN ERIC SCHUTCHINS is a creative powerhouse born and raised in Harlem. His passion for the arts ignited action to hone his skills as a Director, Actor, Producer, and Stage Manager. With extensive production credits to his name, John's artistic vision and dedication to excellence have brought countless stories to life on stage. His compassionate spirit and love for humanity shine through in every project he undertakes, inspiring audiences and creating meaningful connections. Congratulations to New Heritage Theatre Group on this milestone. I dedicate this moment of the 60th Anniversary to Evolution, Revolution, the Ancestors, and God. ASÈ



NORMAN ANTHONY SMALL (Stage Manager) Broadway: The Shark Is Broken, Leopoldstadt, American Buffalo. Off-Broadway: Good Bones, Sally & Tom (The Public); Where We Stand (WP Theater); Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven (Atlantic Theater Company). Regional: Crossroads Theatre Company, Long Wharf Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage. Education: MBA, MCNY; BM, University of Miami. Adjunct professor of stage management, Fordham University. Award: Charlie Blackwell Symposium Scholarship for Stage Managers of Color.

OUR NHTG ARCHIVISTS

TEMPLE-JENE FLEMING
 CAMILLE HEATLEY
 TUDY SANTOS
 LENNY PARKER, JR.





ASSEMBLY MEMBER INEZ DICKENS



VOZA RIVERS

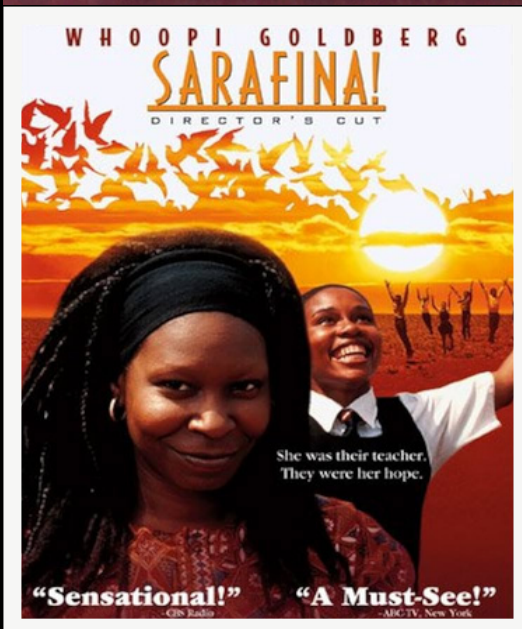


NYC COUNCIL MEMBER GALE BREWER

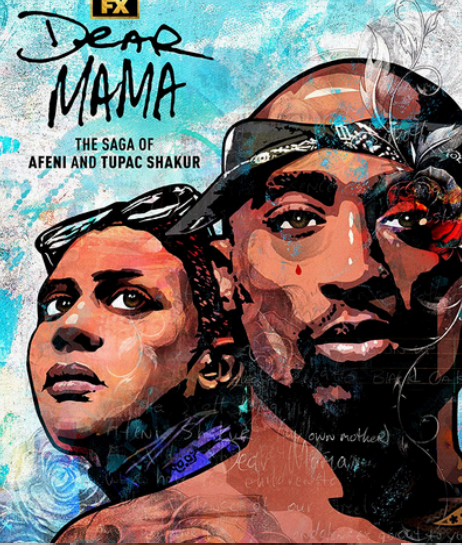
TO OUR ESTEEMED GALA HONOREES

Your unwavering support of the New Heritage Theatre Group has been instrumental in our journey. Your dedication to art, culture, equity, and community resonates deeply with our mission, and your love for people reverberates through your tireless service. You have nurtured creativity, championed diversity, and inspired generations of artists and changemakers. We are honored to celebrate your contributions and recognize your profound impact on our community.

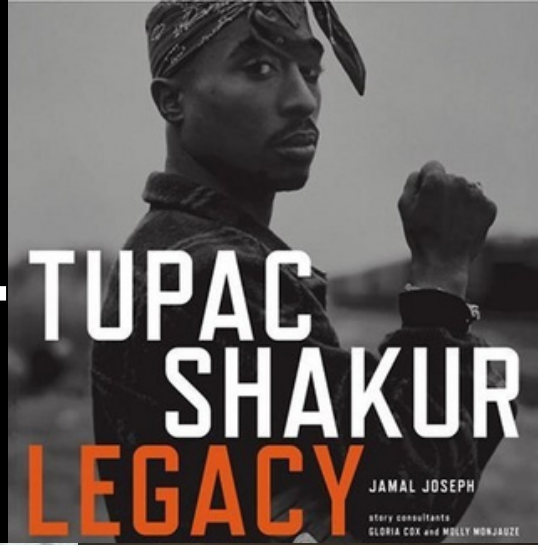
SARAFINA!



With immense gratitude to the extraordinary Whoopi Goldberg, whose captivating performance in "Sarafina! The Movie" brought the spirit of South Africa's struggle for freedom to the world. The film's success is a testament to her incredible talent, and our unwavering commitment to social justice



JAMAL JOSEPH



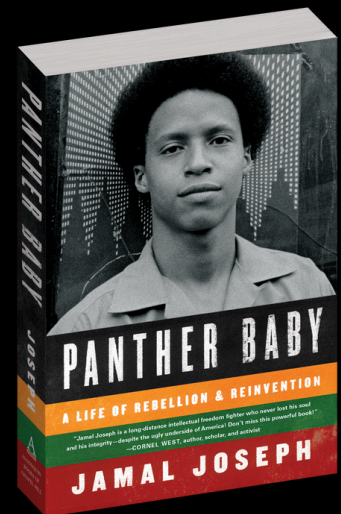
Voza and Jamal's relationship, spanning over 35 years, is a testament to the power of mentorship and collaboration in the arts. It began with a play option from Voza to Jamal after Jamal's release from prison, a gesture that ignited a creative partnership that has produced stellar productions and garnered critical acclaim.

Their shared vision led to the co-founding of Impact Repertory Theater, a youth-driven organization empowering the next generation of artists and activists. They also joined forces to create New Heritage Films, further expanding their impact on the film industry.

Jamal Joseph: U.S. Writer, Director, Producer, Orphan, Filmmaker, Father, Poet, Youth Advocate, Oscar Nominee, Emmy and Grammy nominated for "Dear Mama." Activist and Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia University School of the Arts in the Film Department.



Experience the power of storytelling with captivating works by Emmy & Grammy nominated Jamal Joseph, spanning film, documentaries, and literature.



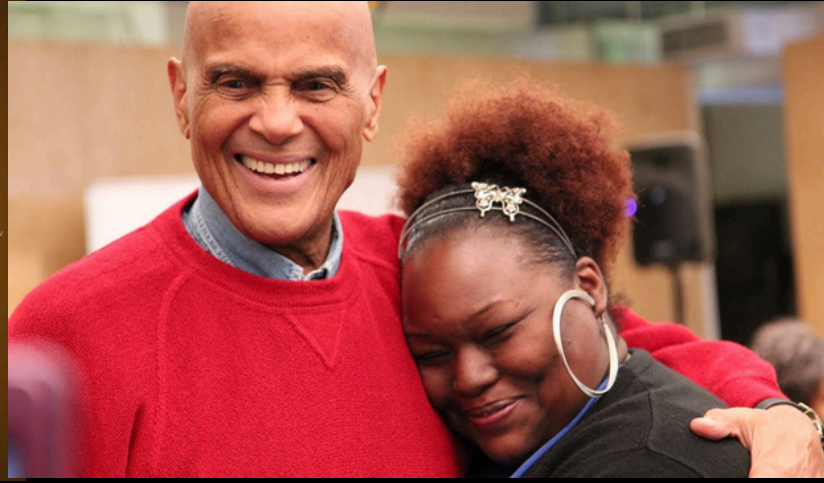
NEW HERITAGE FILMS



Tell Me Your Story



NEW HERITAGE FILMS PRESENTS "TELL ME YOUR STORY"
BY TEVIN THOMAS, KELVYN BELL, DK DYSON, RONNIE BURRAGE
EDITED BY VOZA RIVERS & TEVIN THOMAS PRODUCED BY JAMAL JOSEPH & MIKE DE CARD



NEW HERITAGE FILMS

New Heritage Films, an integral part of the legendary New Heritage Theatre Group, has produced over 50 documentaries that serve as powerful vehicles for storytelling and social impact. These films, showcased at the Harlemwood Film Festival often exploring themes of Black history, culture, and social justice, have garnered critical acclaim and touched countless lives. Through their lens, New Heritage Films captures the essence of the human experience, giving voice to the voiceless and inspiring audiences to embrace the transformative power of art.

HARLEMWOOD

HARLEM'S IMPACT REPERTORY THEATRE

RAISE IT UP

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BEST ORIGINAL SONG

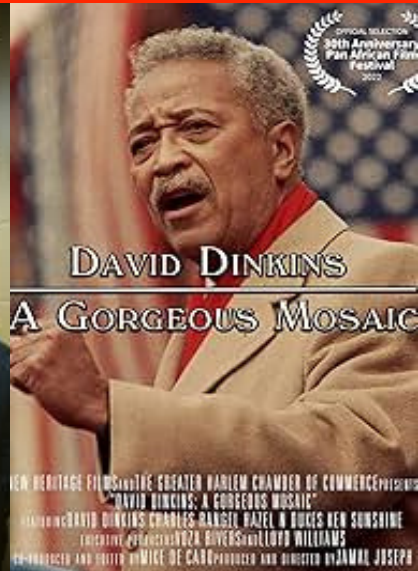
FOR THE MOVIE *AUGUST RUSH*

TRUE SEE

A SHORT DOC BY
JAMAL JOSEPH AND MIKE DE CARD



NEW HERITAGE FILMS PRESENTS "TRUE SEE"
BY VOZA RIVERS PRODUCED BY JAMAL JOSEPH AND MIKE DE CARD



DAVID DINKINS
A GORGEOUS MOSAIC

NEW HERITAGE FILMS PRESENTS "A GORGEOUS MOSAIC"
BY CHARLES HANGEL, HAZEL N. BURGESS, AND LLOYD WILLIAMS
PRODUCED BY VOZA RIVERS AND LLOYD WILLIAMS
EDITED BY VOZA RIVERS PRODUCED BY JAMAL JOSEPH AND MIKE DE CARD



VOZA RIVERS Executive Producer

Reflections on the Legacy of Theater and Visual Art

In 1964, I had the pleasure of meeting Roger Furman, a playwright, set and scenic designer, and director. This meeting was held as part of a class on public speaking at the Harlem YWCA on West 125th Street in their intimate auditorium. The guest speaker, Roger Furman, spoke nostalgically of the 1940's and his days in the American Negro Theatre (ANT). He shared the history of Abram Hill and Frederick O'Neal, co-founders of ANT and the actors who were part of the company. including Harry Belafonte, Ruby Dee. Ossie Davis, Isabel Sanford, Gertrude Jeannette, Clarice Taylor, Rosetta Lenoire, and himself to name a few.

The ANT's goals were to develop a permanent acting company thoroughly trained in the arts and crafts of the theater, focusing on their natural talents and gifts as African Americans, and to present productions that mirrored Black society with integrity and relevance to its audience's current life. Roger Furman was brilliant in romanticizing that period. I was so moved by his presentation that evening that I, as a volunteer, joined New Heritage Repertory Theatre, a new theater launched by Furman, which was based on the ANT model. 1964-1965 was a time of social and civil unrest all across the country. Two of the movements that were also going on in Harlem during that time was a fervor in Black communities that "Black is Beautiful," and the Black Arts Movement.

The Roger Furman Theatre

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 Duma Ndlovu, Associate Producer • Michi Jones, Special Projects Director
 Shaunelle Perry, Artistic Director • Debra Spencer, Consultants
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Sun. July 1st
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**Milstein Hall of Ocean Life
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- Featuring:
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ASINAMALI!

• **MBONGENI NGEMA**
 SOLOMONZI BISHOLO THAMI CELE BONGANI HLOPHE BHEKI MQADI BHOYI NGEMA

Lighting Designer: **WESLEY FRANCE** Production Stage Manager: **BRUCE HOOPER**
 Production Supervisor: **MAKALO MFOKENG**
 Directed by **MBONGENI NGEMA**



"Theater and the visual arts symbolize the reflection of our community's values and our culture."

There was an organization named the African Jazz Arts Society and Studios (AJASS). Within that group were the Grandassa models, featuring full bodied women with dark skin, kinky hair and full lips. They proclaimed their female models as beautiful and Black wearing clothes by some of the most talented and creative Black designers using traditional African fabric and African inspired fashions. You could visit local libraries, museums, night clubs, cafes and stroll down 125th Street and see that there was a change coming and that change involved moving away from the Eurocentric image as a litmus test for what beauty is in communities of color.

During this time Roger created the New Heritage Repertory Theatre. The Black Arts Movement started percolating and voices like Leroi Jones, Larry Neal, Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez and others inspired Black writers, visual artists and others to be more active in their communities, highlight their "Africaness," their history, their traditions and their culture.

Theater groups, poetry performances, visual artists, musicians, and dancers were part of this movement and we were able to highlight multiple types of expressions through the media that was captured in our theaters, art galleries, newspapers, and clubs.

In the middle of this movement, Roger opened our first home at 35 West 125th Street in a two-story loft. One of the first things he did in designing our new theater space was to reach out to local visual artists to create a montage of Black faces that framed the entrance to the theater. This was the first time I noticed the collaboration between visual artists and theater in creating a cultural environment.

In that same building, across the hall, I would hear African drumming daily. Roger and I walked across the hall to meet our neighbor Master percussionist Babatunde Olatunji in his studio and it felt like we had walked into an African village. Adorning the walls of his studio were huge murals and images created by a group of visual artists known as the Weusi Artists Collective, a group of African American visual artists who embraced African images, prominently using them in all of their creative endeavors. Since that time I have met a number of Weusi artists- Ademola Olugebefola, Oko Pyatt, James Sepyo, and others.

These artists became integral in the development of the Black theaters that began to sprout up. For example, in 1968 Emmett Wigglesworth designed the interior and exterior of the Bedford Stuyvesant Theater, Ademola designed collateral and promotional materials for several New Heritage productions and sets for the New Lafayette Theatre and the New Federal Theater. James Sepyo was a recipient of an Audelco Theater award for his set designs.

The collaborations between the visual artists and theaters still exist today. Both of these mediums- theater and the visual arts- symbolize the reflection of our community's values and our culture.



-Voza Rivers

New Heritage Theatre Group

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PERFECTLY TUNED.”**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

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Photo: Keith A. Trax

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ON 60 YEARS!

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EDGES OF AILEY



Coral D'Alpin, Edges of Ailey (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, September 25, 2024–February 9, 2025). Courtesy of Whitney Museum of American Art. Photo by Natasha Montalbo

AT THE WHITNEY

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Congratulations to
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group on 60 years and
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an endowment to
secure the future of
Black Art in Harlem.

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MANHATTAN
SUNY UCAWD



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**Sending Warm Wishes To The
New Heritage Theatre Group
On The Occasion Of Its 60th Anniversary**

**Chief Executive Officer
Georges H. Leconte, MPA, FAB, RRT
NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem**

NEW HERITAGE THEATRE GROUP

The oldest non-profit Black
theater in New York State

COMMUNITY WORKS

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART AND EDUCATION

celebrates this milestone and
salutes

650

VOZA RIVERS

cultural impresario, dearest friend, and partner for 25 years:

For his **passion, professionalism, voice and vision** in
celebrating and connecting communities internationally
through theater, film, and the arts

And the **indelible imprint he has had on the cultural vitality of
Harlem and beyond**

With love and gratitude,

Barbara Horowitz

Founder & President, Community Works NYC

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THEATRE GROUP ON 60 YEARS!

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A RADIO BROADCAST

THURSDAYS 9PM
WBAI NEW YORK 99.5 FM
WBAI.ORG

 @walktallgirlproductions

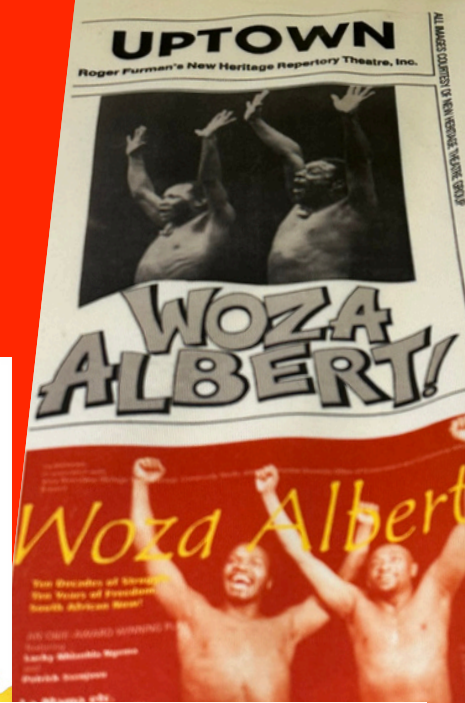
 @walktallgirl

 @blktheatronline



MBONGENI NGEMA

My dear friend, my brother in art, your spirit lives on in every note, every word, every step we take. Deeply missed, forever honored." - Voza Rivers



NEW HERITAGE

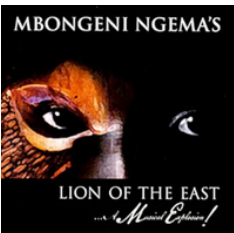
SOUTH AFRICA

New Heritage Theatre Group (NHTG) achieved a remarkable feat in the world of theater with its production of "Sarafina!". This vibrant musical, born from the struggles of apartheid-era South Africa, made its way to Broadway for a groundbreaking 597 shows under the visionary leadership of Voza Rivers.

The journey was not without its challenges. The political discord and cultural tensions surrounding apartheid made bringing this production to the US a near miracle. Yet, Voza Rivers, with unwavering determination, shepherded 35 South African actors to New York, providing them with a platform to share their stories and talents with the world.

"Sarafina!" not only captivated audiences with its powerful message and vibrant music but also launched the careers of many talented performers. Today, some of those original cast members continue to grace the stage in the world-famous production of "The Lion King," a testament to the lasting impact of NHTG's groundbreaking work.

NHTG's production of "Sarafina!" stands as a symbol of resilience, artistry, and the transformative power of theater to bridge cultures and inspire change. Sarafina first performed in the United States in HARLEM, then to Lincoln Center and finally Broadway! It's a testament to the vision and dedication of Voza Rivers and the enduring legacy of New Heritage Theatre Group.

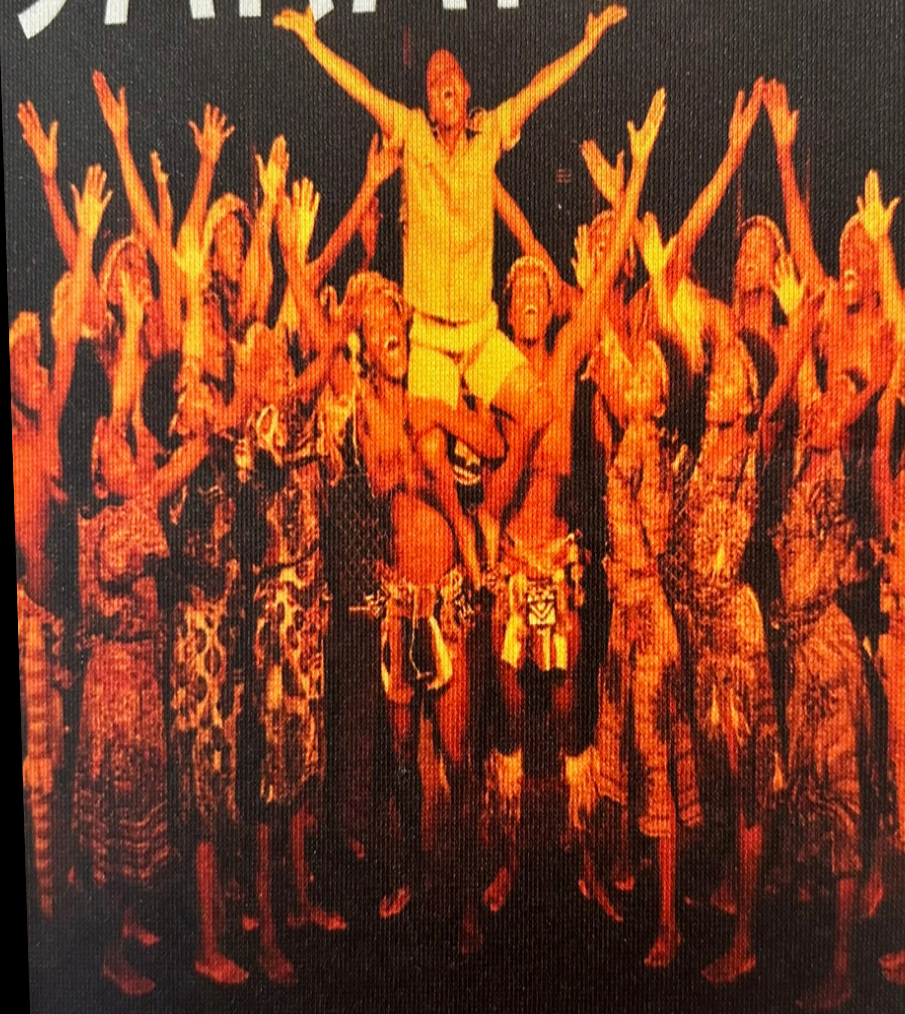


NEW HERITAGE THEATRE HARLEM & COMMITTED ARTISTS SOUTH AFRICA

The collaborative effort of taking "Sarafina!" to Japan expanded the global palette for Black theater, showcasing the power of art to transcend borders and connect with diverse audiences. This international partnership demonstrated the universal appeal of Black stories and the importance of cultural exchange in fostering understanding and appreciation for diverse artistic expressions.

JAPAN

SARAFINA



*The Music
of Liberation*

"SARAFINA" GOES
TO JAPAN, 1988

BUSINESS CARD AD

BUSINESS CARD AD

Shades of Truth Theatre, Voza Rivers New Heritage Theatre Group in Association with Harlem Advocacy for Seniors and Williams Institutional Church present


THE DAY HARLEM SAVED DR. KING

ALIVE THEATRICAL RE-ENACTMENT, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GREEN

OPENING NIGHT: 5 SHOWS - FRI JAN 18, SAT JAN 19, SUN JAN 20, MON JAN 21

TICKETS: \$35

MARTIN LUTHER KING STABBED




Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. But did you know that Dr. King was stabbed in the chest while attending a book signing in Harlem in 1967? He was rushed to Harlem Hospital where a dedicated team of doctors saved his life.

WILLIAMS INSTITUTIONAL CME CHURCH
229 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd., 13th Fl., 10024

General Admission - \$25.00 Seniors and students - \$18.50
ALL SHOWS 7:30PM

Tickets online: www.eventbrite.com
Info: Michael 646 488 9576 / Chiquita: 914 297 8286
Producer: JB Morgan 917 330 0132
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: VOZA RIVERS

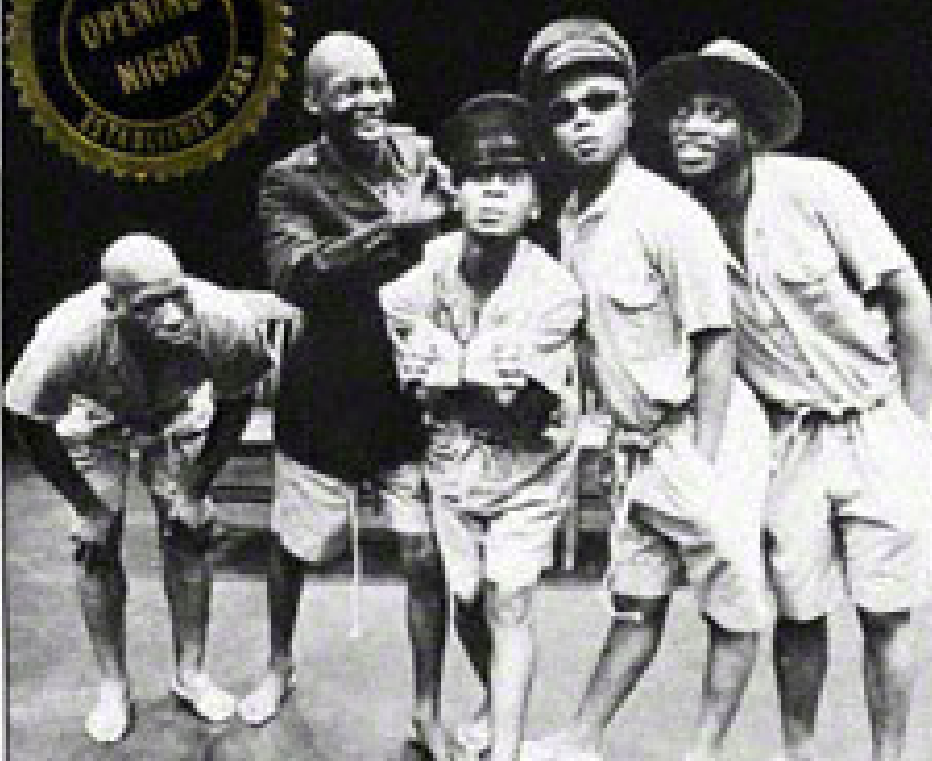



PLAYBILL

JACK LAWRENCE THEATRE

ASINAMALI!

OPENING NIGHT

INTERNATIONAL BLACK PANTHER FILM FESTIVAL 2001

In Association with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

HONORARY CHAIR: Danny Glover

PANELISTS: Bobby Seale, Ward Churchill, Iva Moore, Gloria Rolando, Jamal Joseph, Kameron Crozier, M-1 of Dead Prez, St. Clair Bourne and others

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PUBLIC ENEMY
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
PASSIN' IT ON
THE MURDER OF FRED HAMPTON
ISOLATED INCIDENTS
MARCUS GARVEY: LOOK FOR ME IN THE WHIRLWIND
EYES OF THE RAINBOW
ZAPATISTA
PALANTE
PAUL ROBESON: HERE I STAND and others

May 3 and May 6 at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Boulevard at 135th Street, New York City
Box office 212-491-2206

May 4 and May 5 at the Miller Theatre of Columbia University
School of the Arts
118th Street and Broadway
New York City
Box office 212-854-7777

For information call 212-926-2550 www.pantherfilmfest.com

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Othello

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A hatred that defies the boundaries of color
"Othello" by William Shakespeare



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Debra Ann Byrd Othello
Ella Loudon Iago

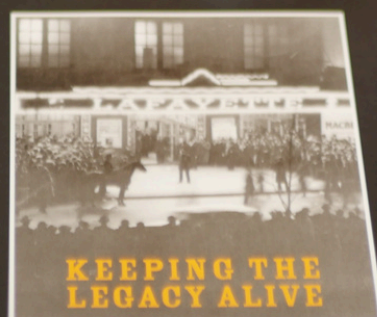
with Natalie Andrews, Megan Lindsay, Amy Driesler, Troi Hall, Kelly Matthews, Ryan L. Jenkins and live music by Wei Guo
Directed by Vanessa Morosco | Adapted by Lisa Wolpe

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or call us at 480-435-8668

Produced by Harlem Shakespeare Festival | Producing Artistic Director: Debra Ann Byrd and Executive Producer: Voza Rivers/New Heritage Theatre Group

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February 2010 - September 2010

Presented by Harlem Shakespeare Festival

DWYER

CULTURAL CENTER

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PLAYBILL

OSSIE DAVIS & RUBY DEE THEATER

BRAKEN

THE POETIC MOSAIC OF A BROKEN MIND



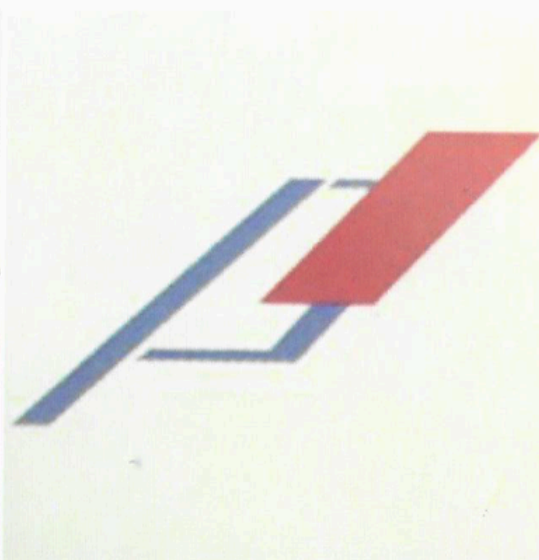
UNHEARD NOTES

MUSIC FOR PEACE, LOVE & HARMONY

**4TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

UNHEARD NOTES PIANO PARA 2018 is an international piano music competition showcase and concert for 33 pianists with disabilities from 14 countries who have overcome great challenges. Our international piano competition includes artists from Egypt, Germany, Great Britain, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Korea, Taipei, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States of America.

Our purpose is not to have the pianists compete for superiority but to encourage, appreciate, and praise talented persons with special skills through music; and to bring awareness of their achievements to the general public. Through this kind of international exchange, we also believe that we can contribute to World Peace and Harmony.



*Tokio Sakoda, Chairman
Unheard Piano Para Associates Committee*



*Abe Akie
First Lady of Japan*

"A passionate feeling for the piano. That colorful tone that can be played beyond the obstacles of life. I think that it reaches within the hearts of people and continues to resonate. I hope that many people can hear the sound of the soul."

"New Heritage Theatre Group is humbled and appreciative to once again participate in this important event. We applaud all of the participants and congratulate them on their performances."



*Voza Rivers
Executive Producer
New Heritage Theatre Group*



*Katz Abe
International Producer
New Heritage Theatre Group*



*Carole Sumner Krechman
President/Founder The Peacemaker Corps Association
an ECOSOC affiliated NGO at the United Nations.*

"Congratulations to Kats and your team in putting this event together and showcase International piano geniuses who are challenged but play professionally and brilliantly."

"We, the Peacemaker Corps Association congratulate the talented artists of Unheard Notes for their interpreting music to bring about Peace, Love and Harmony to today's world. Good Luck and Good Fortune to all participating artists!"

UNHEARD NOTES

MUSIC FOR PEACE, LOVE & HARMONY
Opening Ceremony Program

Opening Remarks

New Heritage Theatre Group

Remarks

Peacemakers Group Association
Tokio Sakoda Unheard Notes
Piano Para Committee

Guest Artist Introduction



Kumari Dance Performance
Kabina Singh (Maharjan)

Guest Artist Introduction



Jazz Performance
Joey Morant

Guest Artist Introduction



Jazz Performance
Aziza Miller

Flag Marching



Canada



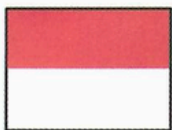
Hungary



Egypt



Germany



Indonesia



Italy



Japan



Mexico



Nepal



Romania



South Korea



Taipei



Turkey



Ukraine



United Kingdom



United States
of America

Sworn by designated country's participants



Honoring the Recipient of the President Biden's Lifetime Achievement Award

Voza Rivers, a name synonymous with Harlem's vibrant cultural landscape, has dedicated his life to empowering Harlem and amplifying Black voices through the arts. With over 86,000 hours of service to our nation, his tireless efforts have earned him the prestigious President's Lifetime Achievement Award.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The American story depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us. I congratulate you on taking it upon yourself to contribute to the public good, and I'm proud to present you with the President's Lifetime Achievement award in recognition of your 86,900 hours of service to this great Nation.

Throughout our country's history, the American story has been strengthened by those who combine an optimism about what can be with the resilience to turn that vision into reality. I know I'm not alone in recognizing that those who are willing to step up and volunteer in service of community and country are essential to the ongoing work of forming our more perfect union.

By sharing your time and passion, you are helping discover and deliver solutions to the challenges we face - solutions that we need now more than ever. We are living in a moment that calls for hope and light and love. Hope for our futures, light to see our way forward, and love for one another. Through your service, you are providing all three.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to you for your volunteer leadership, and I encourage you to continue to answer the call to serve. The country is counting on you.



VOZA RIVERS



LOVE & PEACE
FOWPAL
Federation of World Peace and Love

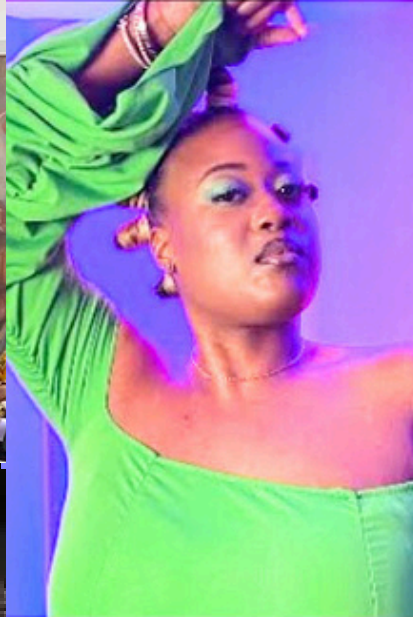


NEW HERITAGE THEATRE GROUP
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60 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

FAMILY







**The Greater
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Established 1896

PROUDLY SALUTES



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THEATRE
GROUP**

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**AS YOU CELEBRATE
YOUR 60TH
ANNIVERSARY**

**LLOYD WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT**³⁴

**Congratulations on your
60th Anniversary!
New Heritage Theatre Group**

from



**Harlem Community
Development
Corporation**

Curtis Archer
President

Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
163 West 125 Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10027
(212) 961-4100

harlemcdc@esd.ny.gov



Congratulations

to

Voza Rivers

and

New Heritage Theatre Group

**COUNCIL
MEMBER
GALE
BREWER**

Greetings from **Joey Harris Inc.**

We are excited to celebrate the New Heritage Theatre Group and its 60 years of dedication to the Arts and communities of color. Special congratulations to Voza and Jamal!

Joey Harris, CEO & Founder

Award-winning international entertainment consultant with over 25 years experience in the music and entertainment industry. Credits include The Recording Academy, Janet Jackson, Busta Rhymes, Parkwood Entertainment, Sony Music, and more.

Joey Harris Inc., a full-service consulting firm specializing in:

- Record Label services
- Artist development
- Strategic marketing
- Brand partnerships
- A&R
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- Celebrity booking & events
- If you are a business, brand, artist, or any other type of professional interested in taking things to the next level and exploring the upper echelons of the entertainment industry, it would be our sincere pleasure to work with you to take your vision and your talent to the next level.



www.joeyharrisinc.com Contact: info@joeyharrisinc.com

JOEY HARRIS INC.

jazzmobile **60**
we keep the music playing!

Congratulations
on your
60th Anniversary



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YEARS

ANNIVERSARY

Robin Bell-Stevens
Director & Executive Producer

Luther "Anubis" Isler
Founder & Cultural Curator

HARLEM BOMB SHELTER

SPOKEN WORD SOCIETY

EST. 2012

CONGRATULATIONS to the Legendary **NEW HERITAGE THEATRE GROUP** and Cultural Impresario **VOZA RIVERS** for **60 YEARS** of preserving, protecting, propelling, and projecting **ARTS & CULTURE** and believing in the future as we follow your leadership and continue the legacy.



FOR BOOKING POETS / HOSTS / WORKSHOPS / EVENTS
CONTACT: THEHARLEMBOMBSHELTER@GMAIL.COM

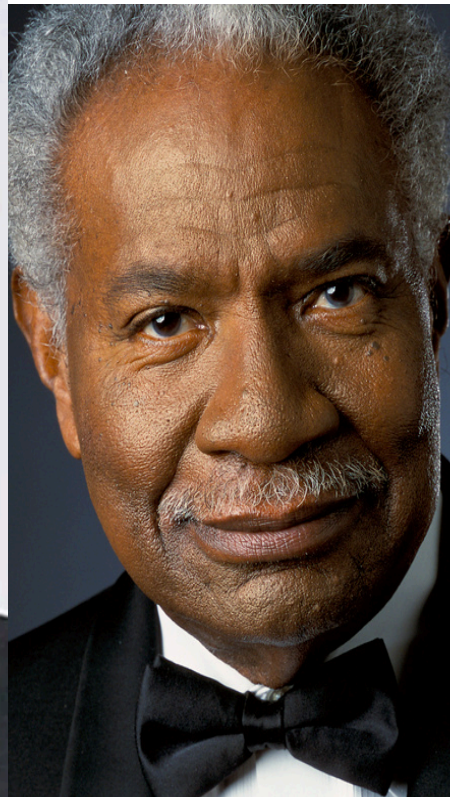
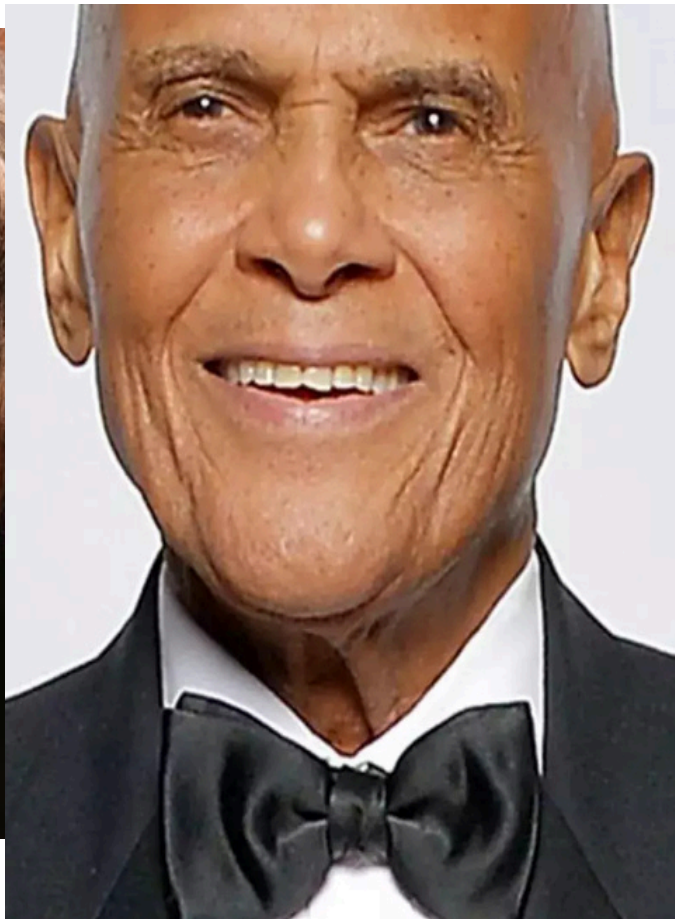
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HARLEM
MASTER CLASS

**Uncover the Legacy.
Create the Future.**

Honoring Indelible Spirits



LEGENDS

The New Heritage Theatre Group (NHTG) has been graced by the presence of some of the world's most iconic figures, luminaries who have shaped the landscape of entertainment, activism, and cultural expression. These legendary individuals, drawn to NHTG's mission of amplifying Black voices and fostering artistic excellence, have walked through its doors, leaving an indelible mark on its history and inspiring generations of artists and audiences alike.

From the resonant voice of **Harry Belafonte**, a champion of civil rights and a groundbreaking performer, to the dynamic duo of **Ossie Davis** and **Ruby Dee**, whose artistry and activism illuminated the stage and screen, New Heritage has been a haven for those who dared to dream and create. **Quincy Jones**, a musical genius whose influence spans genres and generations, and **Mbongeni Ngema**, the South African playwright and composer whose powerful work brought the struggles of apartheid to the world's attention, are just a few of the luminaries who have graced the New Heritage Theatre Group and enriched its legacy.

FOREVER LOST...FOREVER REMEMBERED

ROGER FURMAN: MARCH 22, 1924 - NOVEMBER 27, 1983
ELLIS HAZLIP: SEPTEMBER 21, 1929 - JANUARY 25, 1991
OSSIE DAVIS: DECEMBER 18, 1917 - FEBRUARY 4, 2005
DR. BARBARA ANN TEER: JUNE 18, 1937 - JULY 21, 2008
MIRIAM MAKEBA: MARCH 4, 1932 - NOVEMBER 10, 2008
PERCY E. SUTTON: NOVEMBER 24, 1920 - DECEMBER 26, 2009
RUBY DEE: OCTOBER 27, 1922 - JUNE 11, 2014
HUGH MASEKELA: APRIL 4, 1939 - JANUARY 23, 2018
GERTRUDE JEANNETTE: NOVEMBER 28, 1914 - APRIL 4, 2018
TUNDE ALLEN SAMUEL: JULY 23, 1949 - AUGUST 18, 2001
GIL NOBLE: FEBRUARY 22, 1932 - APRIL 5, 2021
SHAUNIELLE PERRY: JULY 26, 1929 - JUNE 9, 2022
KATSUYA ABE: JANUARY 1, 1936 - NOVEMBER 13, 2022
LAINIE COOKE: JULY 22, 1941 - NOVEMBER 17, 2022
CHUCK JACKSON: JUNE 22, 1937 - FEBRUARY 16, 2023
HARRY BELAFONTE: MARCH 1, 1927 - APRIL 25, 2023
MBONGENI NGEMA: MAY 10, 1955 - DECEMBER 27, 2023
QUINCY JONES: MARCH 14, 1933 - NOVEMBER 3, 2024
NIKKI GIOVANNI: JUNE 7, 1943 - DECEMBER 9, 2024



Today, the New Heritage Theatre Group's work is rooted in the nomenclature and vocabulary of our culture. Numerous articles and awards presented to the New Heritage Theatre Group and IMPACT Repertory Theatre validate the important work that we are doing. Our reputation for being change agents with the ability to impact our community for the better is legendary. Our productions mirror the world we live in and are immediately recognized by our multi-racial multi-cultural audiences.

Our productions focus attention on what is happening around us and pay attention to topical issues such as gentrification, social justice, and politics. Post-gentrification, the Harlem community continues to stress the importance of our cultural institutions to connect to our legacy of achievements and our enormous contributions to the global culture of America. Inspirational news of the incredible accomplishments of our writers, actors, technicians, and directors have made, and continue to make, their mark on the local and global stages.

One of our unique characteristics is that after theatrical performances, documentary film screenings, and music presentations, we conduct audience talk-backs and receive feedback from our audiences. This allows our writers, directors, and actors an important tool to grow and improve their craft. The post-show talkback with members of the cast, our creative team, and the audience is an intimate and interactive presentation, which captures the nuances of our playwrights, directors and actors and informs their creative process when dealing with issues of social unrest, humanitarian initiatives, political upheaval and discrimination.

In most theatrical performances, audience members see a play. Lights come up and people exit the theater. At New Heritage Theatre, after the performance, the lights come up and a dialogue between what the audience saw and experienced begins to happen. The audience begins interacting with the cast, directors, playwrights, and actors.

The audience members get a chance to share and critique the presentation.

However, on numerous occasions, audience members also share personal connections and reflections on how the performance truly impacted their lives. We believe that the Hero's Journey is supposed to be a cathartic experience for the audience. New Heritage Theatre's productions offer this intimate and cathartic exchange after many of our presentations and these types of talkbacks are simply not available in other mainstage productions.

The New Heritage Theatre Group has always remained mindful that we are centered in an extraordinary community for people of color. Our goals and mission is as relevant today as it was in 1964 when Roger Furman founded New Heritage Repertory Theatre. In fact, the ability to present and capture Harlem's historic culture and its people was the driving determination of our founder. From Roger, we learned the importance of respecting the American Negro Theatre as the foundation for our work.

Our Team continues to reach back and connect with our American Negro Theatre legacy by revisiting and presenting their historic works to today's audiences.

New Heritage Theatre Group's vision remains an integral part of New York City's theatrical community and because of our unique programming, we continue to partner with Lincoln Center, The City College of New York, Hunter College, Columbia University, Robert F. Smith Performing Arts Center, Harlem School of the Arts, The Inter Church Center, First Corinthian Baptist Church, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Today, New Heritage Theatre Group is challenged to insure that our theater continues to exist and sustain itself in the midst of a rapidly changing demographic community with new residents arriving daily.

Our golden responsibility as the oldest not-for-profit Black theatre in New York State is to maintain our commitment to first-class entertainment and educational presentations. We must continue to deliver relevant and topical issues through performances that capture and document our iconic history through our arts and culture, both in film and on stage. We must continue to inspire conversations with our actors, playwrights, and audiences to give voice to those creatives who have shared their stories and allowed us the honor and privilege to present their contributions to society and the world.

The one thing that distinguishes the theatre from all the other arts is that a theatrical performance is a fleeting moment, it not permanent. But unlike other art forms, the theatre has one special characteristic. It is always possible to start again. The theatre's lack of permanence teaches us that in other areas of our lives, there is always the possibility of starting over. The slate can be wiped clean, relationships can be mended, and hearts can be healed. In this way, the theatre and life are one and the same.



Photo by Steven Pizano

OUR TEAM

VOZA RIVERS

JAMAL JOSEPH

CATRINA PRIOLEAU

DANIEL KOA BEATY

ALI BANGURA

SHAWN SHEARER

TEMPLE - JENE FLEMING

DIETRICE A. BOLDEN

JOHN ERIC SCUTCHINS

LUTHER "ANUBIS" ISLER

SHAUNY JOHNSON

MIKE DECARO

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60
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